



National Resource Center on Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD, also abbreviated ADHD) is a neurobehavioral disorder that is characterized by a chronic level of inattention or impulsive hyperactivity, or both to the extent that daily functioning is compromised. The disorder affects almost 4 million school-aged children and can last into adulthood. If the condition goes untreated or unmanaged, significant difficulties in crucial areas of life such as relationships with peers and family members can occur. Performance at school or work also can be impaired.
- AD/HD affects 3 percent to 7 percent of school-aged children, in addition to 2 percent to 4 percent of the adult population. Almost 4 million youth 3 to 17 (6 percent) years of age have been diagnosed with AD/HD. Statistics show that boys are more than twice as likely as girls to have an AD/HD diagnosis.
- The National Resource Center on AD/HD was opened in May 2003, to service the needs of many individuals and families seeking information and assistance related to AD/HD. The center is the country's first and only national clearinghouse dedicated to disseminating information on the evidence-based science and treatment of AD/HD. Within the first 8 months of operation, the center averaged 1,200 inquiries (telephone, Web, mail) per month and this figure is expected to grow as the center expands its outreach activities. The center provides pragmatic and scientific data to clinicians, the public, and partner organizations, which heighten awareness of and strengthen support for people who have AD/HD.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

- Collaborated with Children and Adults with AD/HD (CHADD) to create the National Resource Center on AD/HD. CHADD is a national, nonprofit organization providing education, advocacy, and support for people with AD/HD.
- The center is the first and only national clearinghouse dedicated to the sharing of evidence-based science and treatment information about AD/HD with the public and professionals.
- The center provides information about AD/HD and associated concerns to the public and to various professional groups through the National Resource Center on AD/HD website (www.help4adhd.org), their telephone hotline (1-800-233-4050), and their electronic and onsite libraries. The materials available online and the assistance provided by telephone are available in English and Spanish.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- Building capacity for the National Resource Center on AD/HD to expand its ability to respond to requests by increasing the number of information specialists available to address caller needs.
- Continuing to build and make available valuable and reliable resources through the online resource library and physical clearinghouse of AD/HD resources.
- Evaluating the satisfaction of consumers who use the center so that program improvements can be made.
- Expanding efforts to reach out to diverse communities with information about AD/HD.